

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of February 13, 2007

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**LOCATION:** 234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Laurel Arndt, Jill Kusy, Salomon Leija, Anne Lynch, Jack Stapley, Randy Virden

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** District 4 (vacant)

**STAFF PRESENT:** William C. Scalzo, Director; Rhonda Woodward, Administrative Supervisor and Recorder; Tina Allen, Administrator; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Chris Coover, Maricopa Trail Manager; Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent; Don Harris, Park Supervisor; Terry Gerber, Interpretive Ranger; and Kevin Costello, County Counsel

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The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the February 13, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

- - Chair Jill Kusy called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.**

**ITEM # 4 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2007 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM**

- Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Anne Lynch with a second by Laurel Arndt. All were in favor.

**ITEM #5 - DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – William Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- Desert Outdoor Center is trying to extend the aquatics program with Tempe Parks.
- Entry station progress is going very well, with White Tanks being a high priority. Shade structures are completed and the irrigation system at Estrella is close to finalizing.
- On April 1<sup>st</sup> the Dam Good Run will be held at Lake Pleasant. Ruth McCormick, Event Coordinator for the Lake assisted at the recent boat show where we had info in the Skipper Marine booth.
- User had the new maintenance staff start and the new Ranger will be starting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. They've been using hosts to help with programs.

- February 28<sup>th</sup> is a Park Host Appreciation Luncheon at McDowell Park.
- New Supervisor and Maintenance person for San Tan have been hired and they have started working. We look forward to having them at a Commission meeting in the future.
- Marketing and Grants are working with the Phoenix Zoo on a Heritage Grant. This would also allow us to use their facilities.
- The department is working with BLM on the Vulture Mountain project which will be a 25 year agreement. We have met with Wickenburg citizens groups' regarding the preservation area, a cooperative management agreement is drafted and may be ready by April. A few groups are currently staffed and working the area now. Commissioner Arndt asks what is being brought to the table by these groups. Mr. Scalzo replied that one group has resources and will do programs. They also have a facility we can use to hold meetings, etc.
- The Parks Department has received numerous print articles exposing the area of the new Maricopa Trail that is being worked on now.
- February 21<sup>st</sup> Mark Lansing will be recognized by the BOS for 30 years with the County.
- Mr. Scalzo mentioned the Westside preliminary map that was left for the Commissioners of proposed roads that various developers will be working towards for the future. The road system could affect White Tank, Vulture Mountain as well as several Federal holdings. Commissioner Arndt expressed her concern and, Chair Kusy agreed and noted that none of it is funded. She said also there a need for the future, but we definitely would want to provide some comment on it.

**ITEM #6 – CHANGE APRIL COMMISSION MEETING LOCATION AND TIME – William C. Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *DISCUSSTION/ACTION ITEM***

- Mr. Scalzo is requesting that we start the meeting at 10:00 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. and the location be moved to White Tank Mountain Regional Park
- Vice Chair Lynch motioned and Commissioner Virden second the motion. All were in favor.
- Mr. Scalzo invited all Commissioners to go and see all the new capitol improvements that are there, either completed or currently being worked on.

**ITEM #7 – FEE STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE – Tina Allen, Administrator, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM***

- Chair Kusy noted that in the previous months meeting she requested that they review the fees. Commissioner Lynch was asked to head the subcommittee. Chair Kusy also appointed Commissioner Stapley, and asked new Commissioner Leija if he was interested in being on the committee as well. He agreed.
- Commissioner Arndt motioned to approve and Commissioner Virden gave the second. Motion was passed unanimously for the appointment of the Fee Study Subcommittee.
- It is requested that the subcommittee report back at the May Commission meeting.
- The Subcommittee is to determine when they will meet to discuss, and Mr. Scalzo requested that the recommendations be brought forward to go to the BOS in May, to then post and be ready for approval.

- Commissioner Arndt noted that she is requesting the Parks Department work towards automated debit/credit card machines.

**ITEM #8 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

- Jennifer Waller had a PowerPoint presentation prepared for the meeting that showed the issues that are being discussed at the stakeholders meetings. The minutes from the recent meeting with the stakeholders for the area were discussed.
- We are currently losing vegetation on a regular basis; with people shooting, cutting down and destroying various plants; saguaros, palo verde trees and much more. Archeological sites and various signs are being destroyed. Cattle grazing the area are being shot. This has been discussed with the ranchers that own the cattle. People are trespassing onto private property as well.
- Commissioner Virden questioned who has the right to use the road. Jennifer Waller replied that all stakeholders are partnering with us to work on the situation and there will be limited access, no motorized traffic as of July 1, 2007. She also noted that MSCO is working with our Telecom department to improve communications.
- We will be working with Fareed on roads and boundaries for the area; BOR also has an engineer working on fence boundaries with gates. It was established that there is a need to develop and educate the public through the media. Short term and long term goals are being established.
- Commissioner Arndt expressed her concern for the grazing issue and that the lease holders do not seem to be abiding by the regulations.

**ITEM # 9 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Commissioner Leija questioned as to why he hadn't been called to attend. Jennifer Waller replied that currently the meetings are stakeholders only, as soon as it's open to the public she will advise.

**ITEM # 10 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- Rochelle Gribler, 16827 W. Lower Buckeye Road, representing 'Citizens for Estrella Mountain Park' (CEMP); subject is regarding future construction. They would like to request or to have the opportunity to participate in giving input on the 1980's master plan. Though Estrella has a large area for parking, horse trailers cannot get into other areas of the parks. CEMP would like to be a part of the future plans and want to incorporate room for horse trailers. Ms. Gribler also noted that CEMP noticed trailheads are being taken off.
- Chair Kusy instructed Ms. Gribler to meet with Jennifer Waller to obtain information on the Master Plan.

**ITEM # 11 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

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William C. Scalzo, Director/Secretary

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Jill Kusy, Chair